

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as outlined below.

1. (Currently Amended) A network device for handling data comprising:

at least one media port;

at least one high speed docking station communicating with said at least one media port; and

at least one master connected to said at least one high speed docking station, said at least one master configured to handle and process data received by said at least one media port and passed to said at least one master through the at least one high speed docking station;

wherein said network device is configured to handle media ports of different media types, and

wherein said at least one high speed docking station does not create any back-pressure for incoming data from said at least one media port.

2. (Original) A network device for handling data as recited in claim 1, wherein said network device is configured to handle media ports of different media types utilizing the same at least one high speed docking station.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A network device for handling data as recited in claim 1, A network device for handling data comprising:~~

at least one media port;

at least one high speed docking station communicating with said at least one media port; and

at least one master connected to said at least one high speed docking station, said at least one master configured to handle and process data received by said at least one media port and passed to said at least one master through the at least one high speed docking station,

wherein said network device is configured to handle media ports of different media types and wherein at least one high speed docking station comprises at least two high speed docking stations and said network device is configured to handle media ports of different media types utilizing different high speed docking stations of said at least two high speed docking stations.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A network device for handling data as recited in claim 1, A network device for handling data comprising:~~

at least one media port;
at least one high speed docking station communicating with said at least one media port; and

at least one master connected to said at least one high speed docking station, said at least one master configured to handle and process data received by said at least one media port and passed to said at least one master through the at least one high speed docking station,

wherein said network device is configured to handle media ports of different media types and wherein said at least one master communicates with a dedicated CPU to process received data.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A network device for handling data as recited in claim 1 5, wherein each media port of the network device has a maximum bandwidth and said at least one high speed docking station has a bandwidth that is greater than a sum of each maximum bandwidth of each media port of the network device.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A network device for handling data as recited in claim 1, A network device for handling data comprising:~~

at least one media port;
at least one high speed docking station communicating with said at least one media port; and
at least one master connected to said at least one high speed docking station,
said at least one master configured to handle and process data received by said at least one media port and passed to said at least one master through the at least one high speed docking station,
wherein said network device is configured to handle media ports of different media types and wherein said at least one media port comprises at least one port and at

least one packet lane communicating between the at least one port and the at least one high speed docking station.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A network device for handling data as recited in claim 1, A network device for handling data comprising:~~

at least one media port;

at least one high speed docking station communicating with said at least one media port; and

at least one master connected to said at least one high speed docking station, said at least one master configured to handle and process data received by said at least one media port and passed to said at least one master through the at least one high speed docking station,

wherein said network device is configured to handle media ports of different media types and wherein said at least one packet lane comprises a point to point bus providing a direct connection between said at least one port and said at least one high speed docking station.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A network device for handling data as recited in claim 1, A network device for handling data comprising:~~

at least one media port;

at least one high speed docking station communicating with said at least one media port; and

at least one master connected to said at least one high speed docking station,
said at least one master configured to handle and process data received by said at least
one media port and passed to said at least one master through the at least one high
speed docking station,

wherein said network device is configured to handle media ports of different
media types and wherein said at least one packet lane comprises a shared bus, wherein
a shared bus protocol mediates the flow of data between said at least one port and said
at least one high speed docking station.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A network device for handling data as recited in~~
~~claim 1, A network device for handling data comprising:~~

at least one media port;

at least one high speed docking station communicating with said at least one
media port; and

at least one master connected to said at least one high speed docking station,
said at least one master configured to handle and process data received by said at least
one media port and passed to said at least one master through the at least one high
speed docking station,

wherein said network device is configured to handle media ports of different
media types and wherein said at least one master comprises at least one service agent,
where the number of service agents could be equal or less than the number of media
ports.

11. (Original) A network device for handling data as recited in claim 10, wherein said at least one service agent has memory and logic blocks associated therewith.

12. (Original) A network device for handling data as recited in claim 10, wherein said at least one service agent is configured to pack, un-pack and buffer data received from said at least one high speed docking station.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~A network device for handling data as recited in claim 1, A network device for handling data comprising:~~

at least one media port;

at least one high speed docking station communicating with said at least one media port; and

at least one master connected to said at least one high speed docking station, said at least one master configured to handle and process data received by said at least one media port and passed to said at least one master through the at least one high speed docking station,

wherein said network device is configured to handle media ports of different media types and wherein said at least one media port tags incoming data with tags used to categorize the data by the at least one master.

14. (Original) A network device for handling data as recited in claim 13, wherein the tags provides information on a source port and a destination port for the received data and a media type ID for said at least one media port.

15. (Original) A network device for handling data as recited in claim 1, wherein said media types comprise media types according to IEEE 802.3 specifications.

16. (Original) A network device for handling data as recited in claim 1, wherein said media types comprise media types according to IEEE 802.11 specifications.

17. (Original) A network device for handling data as recited in claim 1, wherein said media types comprise media types according to a wireless communication specification which supports data, voice and content-centric applications.

18. (Original) A network device for handling data as recited in claim 1, wherein said media types comprise media types according to IEEE 1394 specifications.

19. (Original) A network device for handling data as recited in claim 1, wherein said media types comprise media types according to communication specifications for cable modems.

20. (Original) A network device for handling data as recited in claim 1, wherein said media types comprise media types according to Synchronous Optical Network specifications.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~A network device for handling data as recited in claim 1, A network device for handling data comprising:~~
at least one media port;
at least one high speed docking station communicating with said at least one media port; and
at least one master connected to said at least one high speed docking station, said at least one master configured to handle and process data received by said at least one media port and passed to said at least one master through the at least one high speed docking station,
wherein said network device is configured to handle media ports of different media types and wherein said media types comprise media types according to specifications for a switched based serial I/O interconnect architecture built for fault tolerance and scalability.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~A network device for handling data as recited in claim 1, A network device for handling data comprising:~~

at least one media port;
at least one high speed docking station communicating with said at least one media port; and

at least one master connected to said at least one high speed docking station,
said at least one master configured to handle and process data received by said at least one media port and passed to said at least one master through the at least one high speed docking station,

wherein said network device is configured to handle media ports of different media types and

wherein said at least one master comprises at least two masters and said at least one high speed docking station comprises at least two high speed docking stations, wherein said at least two masters are connected by a first of said at least two high speed docking stations and at least one of said at least two masters is connected to said at least one media port through a second of said at least two high speed docking stations.

Claims 23-35. (Cancelled)